

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (presently amended) A photographic processing system comprising:

 a conveying member adapted to transport photographic media to be processed, said conveying member comprising a plurality of slots, said conveying member being provided on top of a vacuum chamber;

 a processing solution supply member adapted to apply a processing solution onto photographic media on said conveying member to process said photographic media; and

 a vacuum air source adapted to apply a vacuum suction force to said vacuum chamber, such that said suction force passes through said slots on said conveying member to hold photographic media on said conveying member flat;

wherein said vacuum chamber comprises:

a wall that separates said chamber into a first section located below the conveying member which receives the processing solution from said processing solution supply member that passes through said slots, and a second section located closer to said vacuum air source than said first section, said vacuum chamber further comprising a baffle located above said wall;

said wall and said baffle permitting suction air from said vacuum air source to pass between said slots and said vacuum air source and preventing processing solution which passes through said slots into said chamber from entering into said second section and contacting said vacuum air source.

2. (cancelled)

3. (presently amended) A system according to claim 2 1, wherein said baffle comprises a first part which is spaced from a top surface of said wall, and a second part which extends from said first part in a direction toward said first section of said vacuum chamber at a downward incline.

4. (presently amended) ~~A system according to claim 1, A photographic processing system comprising:~~

a conveying member adapted to transport photographic media to be processed, said conveying member comprising a plurality of slots, said conveying member being provided on top of a vacuum chamber;

a processing solution supply member adapted to apply a processing solution onto photographic media on said conveying member to process said photographic media; and

a vacuum air source adapted to apply a vacuum suction force to said vacuum chamber, such that said suction force passes through said slots on said conveying member to hold photographic media on said conveying member flat;

wherein said vacuum chamber comprises a drain for draining processing solution from said vacuum chamber

5. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said vacuum air source comprises a vacuum air pump.

6. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said conveying member comprises an endless conveying belt which passes around a pair of rollers, and a surface of said conveying belt comprises said slots.

7. (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said photographic media is cut sheets.

8. (presently amended) A method of processing photographic media, the method comprising the steps of:

placing an exposed photographic media on a surface of a conveying member, the surface of the conveying member having a plurality of slots therein;

applying a vacuum suction force through said slots to hold the photographic media on said surface of the conveying member; and

supplying a processing solution onto said photographic media while the photographic media is being held on said conveying member by said suction force; and

locating a wall and baffle arrangement in a path of said vacuum suction force which permits the suction force to pass between said slots and a source for said vacuum suction force, and prevents processing solution which passes through said slots from reaching said source.

9. (cancelled)